

Message Text

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E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, GE

SUBJECT: EAST GERMAN PRESS CONTINUES TO HIGHLIGHT ANGOLA

REF: BERLIN 4213

1. EAST BERLIN NEWSPAPERS HAVE REACHED THE POINT OF HIGH PRAISE, BORDERING ON JUBILATION, FOR THE MILITARY ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE MPLA IN ANGOLA DURING THE PAST WEEK. THEY REPORT THAT THE COUNTRY IS NOW " NINETY PERCENT" IN THE HANDS OF THIS MOVEMENT AND THAT INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION BY A MAJORITY OF THE MEMBERS OF THE OAU AND BY THE OAU ITSELF HAS ASSURED THE " NEW ANGOLA" OF A PLACE IN MODERN AFRICA. THE NEUES DEUTSCHLAND COMMENTARY OPINES THAT THE VICTORIOUS FIGHT OF THE ANGOLAN PEOPLE" WILL HAVE REPERCUSSIONS BEYOND AFRICA IN THOSE PLACES WHERE THE STRUGGLE AGAINST " NEO-COLONIALISM AND IMPERIALISM" IS STILL BEING WAGED.

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2. AT THE SAME TIME, THE GDR GOVERNMENT IS TRYING TO REAP ITS REWARD BY STATING THAT THE GDR HAS PROVIDED "POLITICAL-MORAL" AND MATERIAL SUPPORT TO THE MPLA FROM THE TIME IT WAS FORMED IN 1956, AND IN PARTICULAR WHEN THE MPLA BEGAN ITS GUERILLA ATTACKS AGAINST LUANDA IN 1961. THE MATERIAL SUPPORT IS DEFINED AS FOOD, MEDICINES AND TEXTILES.

3. THE NEWSPAPERS ALSO REPORT A RECENT SOVIET TELEVISION PROGRAM IN WHICH DR. NETO THANKS THE SOVIET PEOPLE FOR THEIR SUPPORT IN ACHIEVING SUCCESS IN THE STRUGGLE THUS FAR. SUCH NEWS MERITS ONLY INSIDE PAGE COVERAGE IN THE CURRENT EDITIONS.

4. COMMENT: THE GDR'S POSITION ON THE ANGOLAN WAR HAS CHANGED MARKEDLY FROM ONE OF HESITANT SUPPORT FOR THE MPLA TWO WEEKS AGO TO ONE OF DIRECT ASSOCIATION WITH NETO AND HIS MOVEMENT IN THE PAST FEW DAYS. THIS CHANGE HAS PARALLELED THE MILITARY ADVANCE OF THE MPLA AND SUGGESTS A MUCH CLOSER GDR ASSOCIATION WITH MPLA THAN IS PROBABLY THE CASE. THE GDR GOVERNMENT IS MAKING CLEAR HOWEVER THAT ITS SUPPORT OF ANGOLA IS IN THE FORM OF NON-MILITARY AND APPARENTLY HUMANITARIAN AID. GROVE

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